

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 H-01 JUSE-00

COME-00 AGRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /051 W

-----082066 261556Z /53

R 261405Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8183

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3672

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, SF

SUBJECT: JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SUIT AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN SUGAR LOBBY

REF: STATE 170859,

1. SUMMARY: WHILE PRESS TREATMENT HERE OF US JUSTICE DEPT SUIT HAS SO FAR BEEN RESTRAINED, QUESTIONS HAVE EMERGED IN PRESS OVER ITS NATURE AND PURPOSE..EMBASSY REQUESTS FURTHER DETAILS ON JUSTICE DEPT. ACTION. END SUMMARY

2. THE JUSTICE DEPT ACTION AGAINST THE SOUTH AFRICA FOUNDATION AND SUGAR ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN TREATED IN FAIRLY DISPASSIONATE WAY SO FAR. IN TAPED INTERVIEW ON SABC, SA FOUNDATION DIRECTOR CHETTLE RESPONDED NEGATIVELY TO QUESTION OF WHETHER SUIT WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AS PART OF USG CAMPAIGN AGAINST SA.

3. CASE HAS NOT BEEN RAISED WITH US BY ANY SAG OFFICIALS EITHER FORMALLY OR IN PASSING.

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4. TABLOID THE CITIZEN DID INCLUDE A DISTORTED ACCOUNT OF SUIT AS PART OF ITS STRIDENTLY ANTI-AMERICAN SERIES (FULL TEXT IN JOHANNESBURG 1881). AN ARTICLE IN SUNDAY TIMES OF JULY 24, WHILE GENERALLY EVEN-HANDED, NOTES THAT "AN UNUSUAL FACET OF THE SUIT IS THAT IT IS SOLELY AGAINST THE SOUTH AFRICAN LOBBYISTS AND DOES NOT CITE OR HOLD LIABLE ANY OF THE CONGRESSMEN NAMED."

5. CITIZEN ARTICLE MENTIONED ABOVE MAKES FOLLOWING CLAIMS
AMONG OTHERS: (A) US DEPT. OF JUSTICE HAS RIGHT TO EXAMINE
ALL OFFICES AND FILES OF INFORMATION SERVICES, EVEN IN HOMES
OF STAFF; (B) IT IS A MISDEMEANOR IN US FOR ANY FOREIGN
GOVERNMENT TO INVITE ANY US SENATOR OR CONGRESSMAN TO TRAVEL
AS ITS GUEST.

6. WE ALSO NOTE THAT ACCORDING TO POST ARTICLE, JUSTICE SUIT
SEEKS ONLY TO FORCE SA REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCLOSE ALL
DETAILS OF THEIR LOBBYING HERE.

7. REQUESTED ACTION: WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER CLARIFICATION
OF OBJECTIVES OF JUSTICE SUIT, WHETHER IT IS LIABLE TO
LEAD TO PROSECUTION, AND WHETHER CLAIMS MADE IN CITIZEN
ARTICLE ARE ACCURATE. WHILE SITUATION HAS NOT SO FAR
NECESSITATED US TO DISCUSS CASE, WE WISH TO BE IN POSITION
TO REFUTE ANY MISSTATEMENTS AND DEAL WITH ANY OFFICIAL INQUIRIES.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, LITIGATION, SUGAR, LOBBYING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR03672
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770266-0478
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770718/aaaaapij.tel
Line Count: 81
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 7ce40d64-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 170859
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1746103
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SUIT AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN SUGAR LOBBY
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, PGOV, SF, SA FOUNDATION & SUGAR ASSOC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7ce40d64-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009